

Dr. Eugene W. Pflum is a retired orthopedist from Golden, Colorado. His interest in orthopedics originated with his experiences as a wrestler; seeing teammates healed by doctors after serious injuries sparked his own interest and desire to help other athletes. He earned his medical degree from University of Colorado School of Medicine and has been in practice for more than twenty years. After graduation, Dr. Pflum worked in the Indian Health Service (IHS) for eight years, first in Alaska and then in New Mexico and Arizona. An active outdoorsman, he fell in love with the natural world there and the indigenous communities he was serving. After he completed his service with the IHS, he moved to Delta, Colorado where he was the first orthopedic specialist in the region. He expanded the local hospital, tripling the number of available beds and bringing in fifteen more specialists to the clinic. He also started a soccer program from scratch in Delta county which grew to more than four-hundred players. On mission trips, he worked internationally, everywhere from Peru, Costa Rica, Kenya, Uganda, Cambodia and Tanzania. There, he treated lion and hyena bites —as well as the usual orthopedic injuries— and taught new orthopedic surgery techniques to local residents and general surgeons. Dr. Pflum's humanitarian work has continued locally, as a volunteer for the Jail Ministry in Colorado.